

Patent Application of
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For

TITLE OF INVENTION: Modular Speaker Cabinet

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS:

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Patent Application Ser. Nr. 60/395,224 filed 2002 Jul 11.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR
DEVELOPMENT:

Not Applicable

REFERENCE TO SEQUENCE LISTING, A TABLE, OR A COMPUTER PROGRAM
LISTING COMPACT DISK APPENDIX:

Not Applicable

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION:

[0001] This invention relates to speaker cabinets, specifically to speaker cabinets used for instrument amplification. The largest typical speaker cabinet used with guitar amplifiers contains four speakers. Most amplifiers are designed to work with two, four speaker cabinets

and many musicians try to obtain this configuration to perform with. However, a four speaker cabinet is expensive and not very versatile. All four speakers in the cabinet are the same and come preloaded from the factory. A problem also arises when the user would like to go practice and has to contend with moving a heavy four speaker cabinet or resorts to buying a separate combination amplifier.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION:

[0002] The invention, a modular speaker cabinet, has connectors to attach individual speaker cabinets together. These connectors, a male and a female, are opposite one another on each cabinet and are provided to adjust the number of speakers contained within an array. The female connector is secured to the cabinet at all times while the male connector is used only where needed. Access to some connections in the rear of the cabinet is obtained through the rear door which can be removed for open back operation.

[0003] Accordingly several objects and advantages of the invention are to provide means for adjustment of the number and type of speakers contained within an array of speakers and provide a more economical means of obtaining a larger speaker array. Still further objects and advantages will become apparent from a study of the description and the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING:

[0004] FIG.1 is a perspective front right-side view of a single speaker cabinet showing the front, side and top of the cabinet.

FIG. 2 is a perspective front right-side view of an array of four single speaker cabinets.

FIG. 3 is a perspective rear left-side view of the array in FIG. 2

FIG. 4 is a perspective front left-side view of the array in FIG. 2 with one cabinet detached.

FIG. 5 is an exploded assembly of connection hardware of the perspective front right-side view of the array in FIG. 2.

FIG. 6 is a plan view of a jack dish installed in the rear cutout of the cabinet in FIG. 3.

FIG. 7 is a wiring schematic of an electrical connection to a single speaker.

REFERENCE NUMERALS

- 10 base cabinet
- 20 stacking corner
- 30 pass through plate
- 40 male connector
- 50 female connector
- 60 cover plate
- 70 rear door
- 80 latch
- 90 lift off hinge
- 100 notched closeout
- 110 back panel
- 120 middle back divider
- 130 jack dish
- 140 air seal
- 150 catch

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

[0005] FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a base cabinet 10 constructed in a conventional fashion and in accordance with the invention. A stacking corner 20 attaches to each corner of base cabinet 10. Back panel 110 spans the inside width of base cabinet 10 and has a hole located to one side for a jack dish 130 (Fig. 6). Back panel 110 is recessed and attached to the lower back portion of base cabinet 10. A middle back divider 120 spans the inside edge width of base cabinet 10 and aligns with the top of back panel 110. Middle back divider 120 attaches to the

back edges of base cabinet 10. An air seal 140 is attached to base cabinet 10 edges and middle back divider 120. Four holes are made in the top, bottom, left and right sides of base cabinet 10 at the front and back edges. Conventional recessed handles (not shown) are centered on the left and right sides of base cabinet 10.

[0006] FIG. 2 is a perspective front right-side view of a four single speaker cabinet array used to show typical four single cabinet assembly. Male connector 40 is shown in assembled position.

[0007] FIG. 3 is a perspective rear left-side view of the four speaker array attached together. A lift off hinge 90 is attached to base cabinet 10 and a rear door 70 at two locations along the side of the base cabinet 10 opposite jack dish 130 (Fig. 6). A latch 80 attached to rear door 70 and a catch 150 attached to base cabinet 10 work in conjunction, opposite the hinges. A notched closeout 100 is attached to the rear bottom edge of base cabinet 10, the bottom of middle back divider 120 (Fig. 1), and the rear of back panel 110 (Fig. 1) to form a storage area enclosed by rear door 70.

[0008] FIG. 4 is a perspective front left-side view of the four speaker array to show detachment of a single speaker cabinet.

[0009] FIG. 5 is an exploded assembly of a connection assembly in perspective. The connection assembly is divided into two subassemblies, a pass through assembly and a base assembly. The pass through assembly consists of two pass through plates 30 and male connector 40. Pass through plates 30 are centered on the holes located on the bottom and left side of base cabinet 10 at the front and back edge. The base assembly consists of pass through plate 30, a cover plate 60, and a female connector 50. The connection assembly is centered on the holes located on the top and right side of base cabinet 10 at the front and back edge. A recessed on the inside edge of the hole locations to accept the female connector 50 and allow cover plate 60 to mount flush.

[0010] FIG. 6 is a plan view to jack dish 130. Jack dish 130 is located in the hole in back panel 110 (Fig. 1) with the flange of jack plate 130 attached flush to the back of back panel 110.

[0011] FIG. 7 is a schematic of the wiring for a single speaker cabinet. Two standard jacks and two mono switch jacks are used. The mono switch jacks are used for the parallel and series connections and the standard jacks for the auxiliary and input connections.

[0012] In operation one uses the cabinet in a normal manner with a source signal from an amplifier. The user can attach mating cabinets to one another by aligning the cabinet holes and securing male connector 40 bearing on one cabinet to female connector 50 bearing on the opposite cabinet (FIG. 2 and 5). Access to back male connectors 40 is gained by opening rear door 70. The user can operate in open back mode by unlatching latch 80, opening rear door 70, and lifting rear door 70 off lift off hinges 90.

[0013] The user can electrically connect multiple speaker cabinets in either parallel or series by use of the appropriate jacks at the cabinet rear. Signal input comes through the in jack. The following speaker in the signal chain has its in jack connected to the parallel or auxiliary jack of the previous speaker cabinet for parallel connection and to the series jack for series connection. In transport the user can place all hardware and cables in the storage area in the cabinet back accessed by cabinet rear door 70.

[0014] There are many possibilities with regard to type of male and female connectors that are applicable. The preferred embodiment shown is a conventional cap screw with a tee head as male connector 40, and a conventional slab base weld nut as female connector 50. The connectors could alternately be switched to have a female type receptacle pass through the cabinet holes and attach to a male connector. Alternately a conventional quarter turn type fastening system can be used. There are also alternate possibilities with regard to rear door 70. Rear door 70 can be eliminated and operated as open back only. Rear door 70 can also be permanently attached to the cabinet and all connection assemblies located to the exterior of the cabinet interior. The side of base cabinet 10 can bear directly on the side of an adjoining base cabinet 10 by removing stacking corners 20 and exterior mounted pass through plates 30. Another embodiment of the electrical connection is the use of three jacks and a conventional switch to change one of the three jacks from parallel to series. The other two jacks would be for input and parallel connection. A single input jack could be used for parallel electrical connection at the detriment of versatility.